

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 were rejected, and claims 4-12 were objected to. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 11 have been amended herein, claim 7 has been canceled and rewritten in independent form as claim 25, and claims 2 and 4 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-12, and 25 remain active in the application. In view of the claim amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anstrom et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,407,341, ("Anstrom"), in view of Blake et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,771,366, ("Blake"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, at least for the reasons presented in the response to the previous Office Action. In order to not unduly delay issuance of the allowable claims, however, Applicant will pursue allowance of the subject matter of these claims in a continuing application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to contain the limitations of original claims 2 and 4, and thus represents allowable claim 4 rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 5, and 6 have been amended to depend from amended claim 1.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 25, which contains all the limitations of original claims 1 and 7.

Claims 8 and 11 have been amended to each include the limitations of claim 1 in independent form.

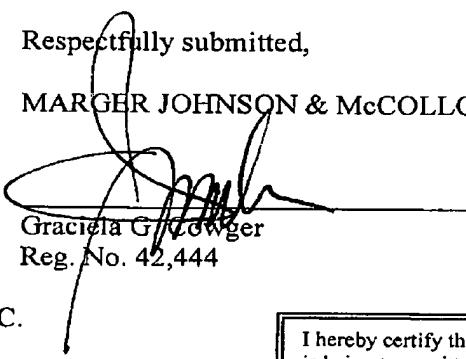
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4-12 have been amended to overcome the objection for dependence on a rejected base claim, and the claims as presently constituted are in a proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-12, and 25 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

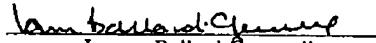
Respectfully submitted,

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